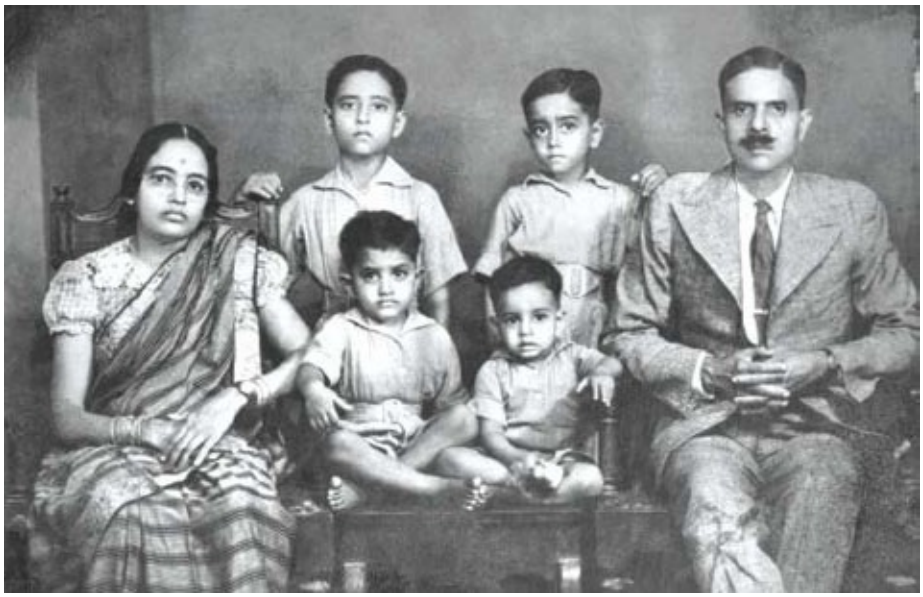
Media here. Kussh also went to NY Film Academy to study direction."

Prithviraj Kapoor thundered 'Khamosh' *in* Mughal-e-Azam. *SS mimicked it with such flair that it became his signature exclamation. From a stern 'Silence', 'Khamosh' morphed into a word that brought a smile to the face*



Shyama Devi (left) and Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Sinha (right) created their own little Ramayan by naming their four sons Ram, Lakhan, Bharat and Shatrughan. The sons were born to them after they prayed at the Ram Rama Pati Bank, a temple in Benares, UP

A family car for the family of six

Lakhan, Shatrughan and Bharat with mother Shyama Devi. Eldest son Ram had left ‘paani ke jahaaz se *(by ship)’ to study in America*

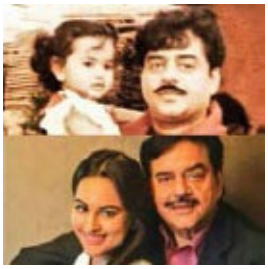
Shatrughan, the tall, lanky youngster with stardom in his eyes, struck a filmi pose every time a camera was trained on him

Bhuvaneshwar Niwas, the Sinha family residence in Kadam Kuan, Patna, was named after patriarch Bhuvaneshwar Prasad. SS often pitched Bhuvaneshwar Niwas into his electoral rallies in Odisha to make a connect

Patna Science College was where SS discovered that test-tubes and theorems had no place in his heart; it beat for applause and audiences. Twelve years after dropping out of college and going to FTII, he returned as a celebrity to the same college as the Chief Guest for its Diamond Jubilee function

The replay of the Ramayan continued with the birth of twin sons Luv and Kussh which was greeted with a 21-gun salute by his friends

Brother Lakhan and SS may blow hot and cold with each other but Dr Anvay Mulay who did a bypass surgery on both of them, found the configuration of their hearts astonishingly similar



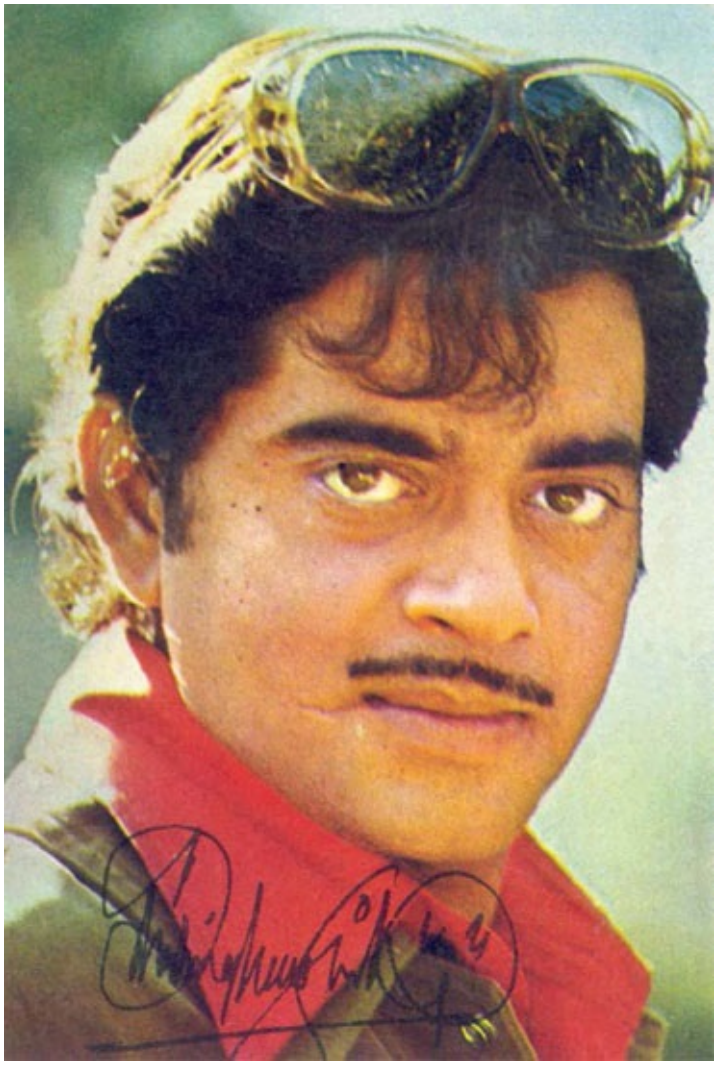
Unchanged over the years, the only two women he truly cares for – his "heavy love" Poonam (left, middle) and "baby love" Sonakshi (above)

Whatever the distractions outside his marriage, SS is the quintessential traditional Bihari who revels in the role of head of this nuclear family of five. Right from the start, the star has proudly stepped out in public with his beautiful wife Poonam, his twin sons Luv-Kussh and Sonakshi, the baby of the family

Film star and MP Shatrughan Sinha inside Bhuvaneshwar Niwas. Framed on the wall are priceless moments from the family album with a garlanded portrait of father Bhuvaneshwar Prasad occupying pride of place

Secular friendships have included childhood buddy Mahmood Alam. At SS and Poonam's wedding in 1980, Mahmood Miya made two dozen special glass bangles at his factory in Firozabad with "Poonam" and "Shatrughan" inscribed on them as his personal gift to the bride

Journalist-turned-star secretary Pawan Kumar and SS have had a professional association for over four decades. At one time, Pawan Kumar was Amitabh Bachchan's secretary too



Convinced that stardom would soon be his, even as a struggler SS practised for hours and perfected his signature. To this day, SS painstakingly signs his full name the same way for every fan. This was the autographed photograph that used to be sent in response to bagsful of fan mail

SS knew he was home the day he entered FTII as the first student from Bihar (which then included Jharkhand) to be enrolled in the Acting course. The indifferent student of Patna Science College took to the FTII course like a duck to water

Those were the days when FTII senior Subhash Ghai (3rd from right) and SS shared moments amicable and inimical. When Subhash Ghai turned producer with Karz, *he signed Rishi Kapoor (next to SS) as the leading man. But he and SS, his first hero, celebrated most occasions together. Here they are with (left to right) Prem Chopra, Randhir Kapoor and Jeetendra*

FTII junior Raza Murad has video clips of SS' scenes stored in his cell phone and is an encyclopedia on all things Shatrughan. An unabashed admirer, his only grouse is that SS joined the BJP (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)

Ever since producer and current Censor Board Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani signed SS as one of his leading stars for Hathkadi, *they have been handcuffed in a friendship that is more personal than professional. For his close proximity to SS, Pahlaj was even nicknamed 'Hanuman' by Sahib Singh Verma, former Chief Minister of Delhi (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)*

SS never worked with Tamil cinema icon and Chief Minister MG Ramachandran. But his connection with South India and with politics was evident early as he had deep respect for MGR

Big-time box-office names of the eighties included filmmaker Manmohan Desai (3rd from left) who changed his scripts to accommodate SS' growing popularity and tailored dramatic entries for him, and Subhash Ghai (next to SS)

SS deeply admired Kabir Bedi's personality. They worked together in Rakesh Roshan's mega-success Khoon Bhari Maang where Bedi was the villain and SS was the hero

SS backed Subhash Ghai's script of Kalicharan so unstintingly that producer NN Sippy put his money on it. Kalicharan marked the debut of Subhash Ghai as director and SS in a double role saw huge commercial success as its leading man

Like SS, Poonam Dhillon also hails from a family of doctors, medical practitioners in her case. She's a regular on his guest list of close friends. The socially aware actress also belongs to the BJP

Although SS was essentially a commercial Hindi film star, he produced an art film titled Kalka. A story on the exploitation of the coal miners of Dhanbad, it was directed by internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker Lok Sen Lalwani. For the first time, Jagjit Singh composed music for a Hindi film

FTII junior Anil Dhawan and SS shared a very close friendship and did several films together. In fact when BR Ishara offered SS the lead role in Chetna, a big success in its time, he pointed the director towards Anil Dhawan as the more suitable man for the part. SS himself opted to do only a cameo in it. But it was the cameo that brought the audience in

Gentleman and neighbour Devendra Goel's Aadmi Sadak Ka *(co-starring Vikram) was one of the many mainstream successes SS notched up after shifting from villain's roles to the lead*

Although SS and Reena disliked each other to begin with, they soon became "far too close". His relationship with co-star Reena Roy seriously rocked his long-standing romance with Poonam. SS and Reena were considered a very saleable pair at the box-office and they did several successful films together including Kalicharan, Vishwanath *and* Naseeb

The unprecedented success of a villain who drew applause and encore could never be replicated by any other actor in India or abroad. Glimpses of SS' cinematic journey include masala movies like Billoo Badshah *(above left and centre)*

From the box-office to the boondocks of Bengal was a challenge for a star used to the luxuries of commercial cinema. But Goutam Ghose's will prevailed and when SS played a chandal *(low-born) with great aplomb in* Antarjali Yatra, *he touched base with realism*

SS was the main villain in the Hema Malinistarrer Babul Ki Galiyan *but he soon rose to become her hero in films like* Do Thug *and* Shararat. *Family friends, they live in the same starry neighbourhood of JVPD (Juhu-Vile Parle Development Scheme) and belong to the same political party too*

Rakesh Roshan's first directorial venture Khudgarz, *inspired from* Kane and Abel, *pitched SS opposite Amrita Singh. Despite delivering one of the biggest hits of his career, SS soon turned to politics*

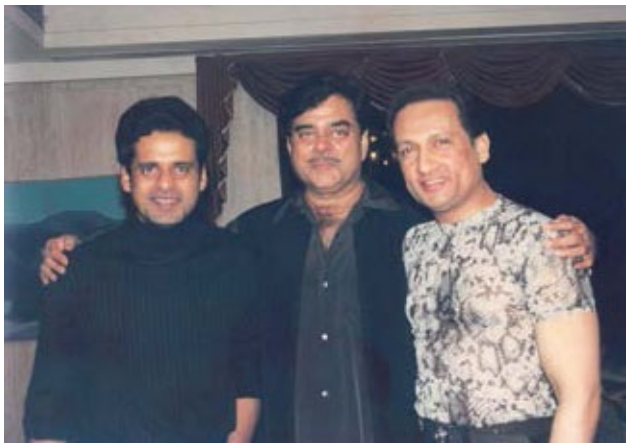
SS and Moushumi Chatterjee worked companionably in many films together including Gautam Govinda *and* Chambal Ki Kasam. *Pahlaj Nihalani's* Aag Hi Aag *was one of their bigger hits. SS' fluency in Bengali turned them into friends*

Thank you, Mumtaz, for Khilona *which took SS to the top of the heap*

Bonding with the younger generation – SS with Madhuri Dixit at a function

Although fame and fortune had turned in his favour, SS didn't hike his fee for Heera, *earning gratitude from Late filmmaker Sultan Ahmed*

Filmmaking was like a picnic when SS worked in friend Pahlaj Nihalani's films. They enjoyed filming Aag Hi Aag *with a long outdoor spell on a rocky terrain near Bengaluru. It marked the debut of Chunky Panday as actor*



SS' unwavering pride in his home state Bihar earned him the lifelong title of 'Bihari Babu'. Along with Shekhar Suman and Manoj Bajpayee, they form the Bihar Brigade of Hindi cinema

For Gabbar, my good friend… When Amjad Khan turned director with Chor Police, SS happily consented to play the leading man in it. SS remains a friend to Gabbar's wife Shehla and the Khan family to this day

Govinda also debuted as hero in a film that co-starred SS – Ilzaam. *The senior actor was impressed with the newcomer's talent, especially his dancing prowess. Vinod Khanna was another actor SS admired immensely for his impressive personality*

SS opted out of Sholay *but his friendship with its maker, Ramesh Sippy and wife Kiran, has grown over the years*

The inner circle of the Sinha family includes hotelier (left) Gulshan Arora, V-P, Sun-n-Sand and Subhash Ghai (right). Even when SS had the choice of premium hotels as a Cabinet Minister, he would patronise his friend's hotel for personal and professional occasions

It was literally a case of 'Anything for Duttsaab' when SS supported his son Sanjay Dutt all through the younger actor's court case for his involvement in the 1993 bomb blasts that rocked Mumbai. SS and Dutt Junior have acted together in indifferent films like Adharm *and* Insaaf Apne Lahoo Se

When SS dropped in on Sonakshi's shooting of Dabangg, *it was like a* Mere Apne *moment. His old co-star Vinod Khanna played hero Salman Khan's father in the film*

A strong South connection saw the Bihari Babu inspire several superstars including Rajinikanth (top, left) in Tamil Nadu, Chiranjeevi (centre) in Andhra Pradesh (seen with industrialist-Congress politician T Subbirami Reddy, Rishi Kapoor and Mohan Babu) and Ambareesh (bottom, left) in Karnataka (seen here with wife Sumalatha and son Abhishek)

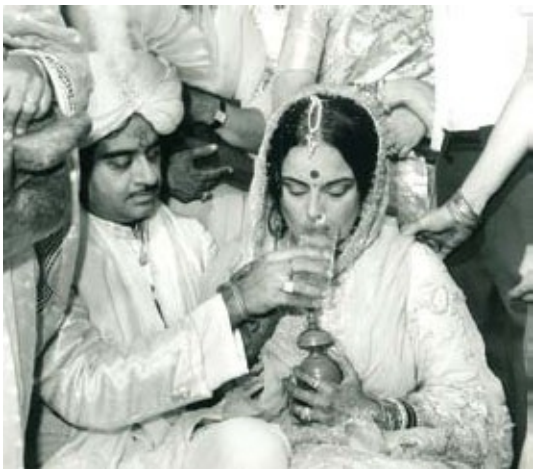
Thirty-five years of wedded bliss. The one who stood by SS through every conceivable emotional upheaval gets the "rarest of rare" title from her husband. Poonam gave up her career as actress to mould herself into the ideal partner for him. They met serendipitously on June 27, 1965 when SS boarded the train from Patna to go to FTII (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)

July 9, 1980: When Shatrughan Sinha and Poonam became man and wife at The Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay

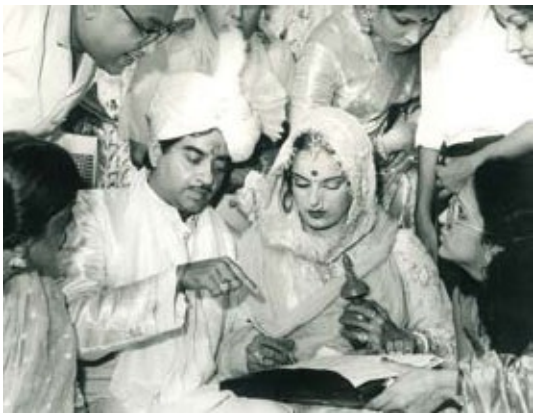
With Lakhan bhaiya, his wife Geeta Sinha, Annapurna didi and mother Shyama Devi

Sister Annapurna, mother Shyama Devi, close friend Bipin Upadhyaya and Yash Johar (behind Annapurna) with the bridegroom

Mooli Aunty (Kamla Punwani) who brought up Poonam was a strict chaperone until she officially handed her girl to SS



The bride breaks her fast with a sip of water from her husband



“I do” signed and sealed as the marriage gets registered. The couple is flanked by SS’ sister Annapurna (left) and Poonam’s sister Aruna (right)

‘I’ve done the honourable thing by Promi’ – bridegroom Shatrughan is jubilant. To his right is Lakhan bhaiya, and flanking the bride are motherin- law Shyama Devi, Manoj Kumar and wife Shashi

The crown’s shifted to her forehead – Lakhan, Shyama Devi, Annapurna and Geeta rally around the bridal couple

The bride's family – Uncle Lekhchand, brother-in-law Ram Lalwani, Aunty Mooli and sister Aruna

Here comes the bride – escorted by Rehana Ghai (left), Padma Aunty and slimming expert Dr Snehlata Panday (extreme right), also known as Chunky's mom

The couple that inspired the Sinhas – Nargis and Sunil Dutt

Dev Anand (right) had backed SS when he was a newcomer. Vijay Anand is next to SS and Yogi (far left)

Royalty turns up in the form of former captain of the Indian cricket team Nawab of Pataudi and his wife Sharmila Tagore

Rare and special guests included Subhash Ghai's mother Subhadra Ghai with Manoj Kumar behind her

Rekha makes a smiling appearance (Bipin on far left)

“Newly-weds” Dharmendra and Hema Malini who had just announced their controversial marriage a month earlier, greet the couple of the day

SS had turned up late for his own wedding, delaying all the functions by a few hours. Punctual guest Jaya Bachchan was on her way out when the bridal couple arrived for their reception

Memories of FTII friendships – Trilokinath Parashar (left) and current Congress politician Baldev Khosa (right) with wife Shashi

Dilip Kumar greets SS-Poonam on their wedding day. Thirty-five years later, the thespian blesses their son Kussh and his bride Tarunna

(Above) Chubby little Sonakshi loved going up on stage with her celebrity father at the Filmfare Awards to give a Lifetime Achievement Award to Yash Chopra. (Right) It's the proud father's turn to walk the ramp with his celebrity daughter (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)

Amitabh shared a hearty laugh with bridegroom SS thirty-five years ago. The camaraderie remains when Amitabh greets SS on his son Kussh's wedding

Mutual pride – Sonakshi has been the apple of his eye from the day she was born (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)

After much deliberation, Shatrughan Sinha stepped into politics by joining the BJP

The men who shaped his politics – Mentor Jayaprakash Narayan with whom he often spoke in Bhojpuri

Bihari Babu meets Atal Bihari

Marg darshak (guide) LK Advani

Flagging off his campaign – sister Annapurna, wife Poonam and daughter Sonakshi apply the sacred tilak *on the candidate's forehead*

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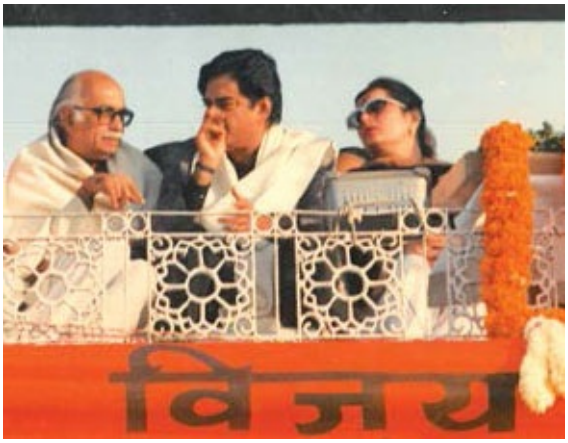
सत्यमेव जयते

The all-important signature on the nomination papers was the first step for Shatrughan Sinha to officially lead the BJP campaign for the Patna Sahib seat in the Lok Sabha elections. An enthused electorate turned up in huge numbers even when he went to file his nomination

As a star campaigner, he formed a troika at the top with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani at electoral rallies that drew a sea of admirers



Close friend Dr Harsh Vardhan and SS have hit the campaign trail together on innumerable occasions

Whether Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the party or Narendra Modi, Shatrughan Sinha was in demand as a crowd-puller whose oratory skills delivered a substantial political message with dramatic flair

Wife Poonam has always been by his side. She camped in Patna Sahib and went door-to-door making a personal connect with voters while husband Shatrughan focused on his special forte, addressing lakhs of supporters at crowded rallies. Luv and Kussh (facing page, centre, flanking SS) accompanied their parents all through the two Lok Sabha campaigns

Changing equations – with Sushil Modi of the BJP and alliance partner Ram Vilas Paswan at Patna Sahib during the 2014 elections`

2009 (facing page, top) and 2014 were battles fought within his party and without. SS had to battle opposition from his own party on both occasions before he was declared the BJP candidate from Patna Sahib. He won both the elections with handsome margins

Once his name was made official, SS roared at every rally and wrested his Lok Sabha seat from his political rivals

Hard fought and well won, the victor entered the Lok Sabha after registering a stupendous margin and demolishing the opposition in 2009 and 2014

The most important landmark of his political career: Shatrughan Sinha was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet in 2003, holding important portfolios like Health and Shipping, one after the other

It was a proud moment for SS to be administered the oath by President KR Narayanan, and to then join the Prime Minister as he posed with all his leading ministers

“From being a party with a difference, we have become a party with differences,” charged Shatrughan Sinha as he was pointedly sidelined by the BJP frontline after the 2014 elections

Unchanged – over the years, SS has grown closer to former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha who remarks, “Given our surnames, we could very well be related.” Also in the picture is Subhash Ghai (middle)

SS with Sushma Swaraj – “The long and the short of the BJP. But the short is more mature,” says Shatrughan about the pint-sized Minister for External Affairs who packs a punch (Poonam and Sunil Dutt also in the picture)

SS once campaigned for Arun Jaitley too. Currently Finance Minister, I& B Minister and Minister for Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley and SS are known to have their differences

SS with fellow Biharis and BJP colleagues, lawyer Ravi Shankar Prasad and licensed pilot Rajiv Pratap Rudy (above left) who landed safely in Parliament and in Modi's new government, and Rajya Sabha MP and party spokesperson MJ Akbar (above right), once close to SS. MJ was surprised when the actor-politician kicked the butt and embarked on anti-tobacco campaigns when Akbar himself had picked up the habit watching SS' flamboyant on-screen smoking

Mumbai chapter of the BJP – Jaywantiben Mehta, SS and Vinod Khanna

Friends with contrasting personalities – SS was vocal that Dr Harsh Vardhan would have been "the better and only choice" as the BJP's chief ministerial candidate in Delhi (instead of Kiran Bedi, the party's official candidate)

SS with Late Pramod Mahajan (left) and Late Gopinath Munde (bottom extreme left). The two famous brothers-inlaw were reported to not favour elevating the actor-politician to the central Cabinet

SS does not have RSS roots but enjoys a healthy acquaintance with the nationalist organisation's current Sarsanghchalak *(Chief) Mohan Bhagwat*

Close friends with much in common. Unafraid to speak their minds, eminent lawyer Ram Jethmalani courts as much controversy within the BJP as SS does (seen here with Rani Jethmalani who passed away, and Poonam Sinha)

“I named Narendra Modi ‘Namo’ and Sushil Modi ‘Sumo’ and the names went viral,” claims SS. At an election rally sharing the dais also with Rajnath Singh, current Home Minister of India

Son Kussh’s marriage to Tarunna was the biggest celebrity event of January 2015, momentous in many ways. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew down to Mumbai specially to attend the ceremony. And SS brought all his siblings together under the same roof for the first time in 15 years. Dr Ram, Dr Lakhan, Dr Bharat and Shatrughan came together for the Kussh-Tarunna wedding. Narendra Modi graciously joined the brothers for a memorable photograph

A sweet moment – the PM offers mithai (sweets) to the couple while the Agarwals, the bride's family, and SS watch on. "I will always be grateful to our dashing, dynamic Prime Minister for gracing my son's wedding and giving his blessings to the couple," says SS

Always under heavy fire for supping with the Opposition, SS has been unabashed about his friendships that cut across party lines

He refused to contest elections opposite Sunil Dutt who belonged to the Congress; SS always accorded him the respect due to an older brother

SS attended Sonia Gandhi's iftaar party (an evening event when Muslims break their day-long fast during the holy month of Ramzan). Seen here is also Congress leader Kamal Nath

A word from an opponent – Congress MP Shashi Tharoor graciously wrote the Foreword for this book (with Late wife Sunanda Pushkar)

With former diplomat and JD(U) spokesman Pavan K Varma and restaurateur-friend Vijay Sinha in Patna after Nitish Kumar returned to the Chief Minister's chair

SS gets along well with LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan and son Chirag. Also in the picture is Ram Vilas Paswan's wife Reena

A clap for AAP from SS when Arvind Kejriwal stood against a giant like Sheila Dikshit and won Delhi. Also seen here are Jose Kutty (between Kejriwal and SS) and Bandana Chaudhary from SS' Delhi team

SS and Late Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh knew each other from their student days in Poona. Deshmukh often wisecracked, "Don't we look like long lost brothers from the Kumbh Mela?"

Shaking paws – SS counted Tiger Balasaheb Thackeray, the Shiv Sena supremo, as an ally. Looking on is Chhagan Bhujbal who later defected to Sharad Pawar's NCP

“For better relations, both countries should have a team each with people like Shatrughan Sinha in it,” said Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan

SS was also friendly with Late General Zia ul Haq and his family. His daughter Zain ties a rakhi to SS to this day

Making an impact at home and abroad: SS addressed the UN General Assembly on three occasions. He spoke on subjects as varied as the Palestinian problem and on the cooperative movement, focusing on the Sudha milk cooperative initiative in Bihar

SS addressed the media in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

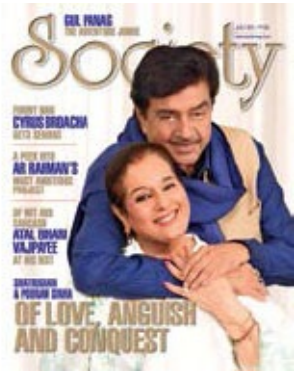
Barkha Dutt put him in the hot seat in New Delhi

Blessings sought and got from Durga Ma and Lord Hanuman – SS is a grateful believer but is not given to rituals

SS respectfully follows the rules of a gurdwara

The Making Of Anything But Khamosh: The Subject (SS) and Author Bharathi S Pradhan have taped conversations running into over 200 hours. Here's a marathon session at Bhuvaneshwar Niwas, Kadam Kuan, Patna

Bharathi meets Bihar heavyweight Lalu Prasad Yadav (top) in Patna and superstar-politician Ambareesh in Bengaluru



Facing page: After his bypass surgery, SS devoted his second lease of life to wife Poonam. The couple gets ready (top, extreme left) to shoot a prestigious cover for Society magazine to mark their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary (July, 2015). Editor Suchitra Iyer personally interviewed Shatrughan and Poonam for the cover story

The famous five – SS, Poonam, Sonakshi flanked by Luv and Kussh (Photo courtesy: Yogen Shah)